



G. Bartolozzi jun. sculp.

MRS. MARGARET RVDD

Published June 16th 1776 according to Act of Parliament



G. Bartolozzi jun. sculp.

MRS. MARGARET RVDD

Published June 16th 1776 according to Act of Parliament

1452 & 29

AUTHENTIC ANECDOTES,
OF THE
LIFE AND TRANSACTIONS
OF
MRS. MARGARET RUDD:

—k
Consisting of a Variety of Facts hitherto unknown to the PUBLIC.

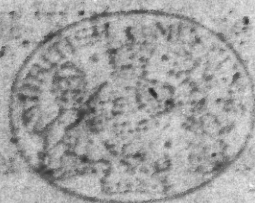
ADDRESSED IN
A SERIES OF LETTERS
TO THE
NOW (BY A LATE ACT OF PARLIAMENT)
MISS MARY LOVELL.

*Rien n'est beau, que le vrai, le vrai seul est aimable
Il doit regner, par tout est même dans la fable.*
BOILEAU.

VOL. I.

L O N D O N:
PRINTED FOR J. BEW, No. 28, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

M DCC LXXVI.



P R E F A C E.

AS the contents of the following narrative may appear romantic, or at least improbable, it becomes necessary to combat such objection, and to remove every suspicion of this sort, by apprising the reader, that all the circumstances related are strictly true, grounded on facts and the evidence of living witnesses. The compiler might easily have protracted the work to a much greater bulk, from the variety of authentic materials in his possession, and which could not be exhibited to

the public thro' any other channel : but he has scrupulously suppressed many particulars, where there appeared the least doubt of their authenticity. He had no other motive in view, but to paint abandoned characters in their true colours, as *objects* of detestation to their cotemporary age, and as *examples* of abhorrence to the rising generation. Thus actuated and employed, he has endeavoured to render honest service to his country, to promote the interests of morality, to guard mankind from future deception and against those crimes by which many have been ruined. Examples have a powerful influence, especially on
young

young minds; and when inferences are properly drawn and precepts established, the whole becomes uniform and compleat. How far the following plan will answer these purposes, is submitted to the judgment of every candid reader.

The female *debauchee* who has seduced numbers of innocent girls, and has led astray as many married women, may impudently arrogate or assume to herself, the epithets of *amiable* and *delicate*—whereas in reality she is a monster in iniquity, and the greatest pest to human Society.—Can human language afford terms too severe, or any species of
fatire

satire too poignant against a wretch, who has always subsisted on the plunder of individuals and the dilapidations of the public—who has supported herself in scenes of grandeur and dissipation to the detriment of honest tradesmen, and the ruin of many of her fellow-creatures? When an artful syren has been a principal through a long course of the most iniquitous practices, why should not such crimes be transmitted to succeeding ages, that innocent posterity may be upon their guard? —When a deceitful prostitute, with the name and figure of a woman, has by a quibble of law, or a concurrence of favourable events, escaped the
the

the punishment of criminal justice for the present—ought not her criminalities to be recorded that the *young* of both sexes may execrate the vicious example?

Such are the considerations which have obtruded the following pages on the public. And considering the numerous publications which have already appeared on the same subject, but all of them replete with falshood and inconsistencies, it became necessary as well as a secondary motive, to publish a genuine detail.—The present plan commences with an early account of a certain *female*, proceeds in an historical chain

chain to record such anecdotes and other circumstances as are well attested—and concludes with suggesting what may probably be the final catastrophe of a wicked and profligate woman.

L E T T E R I.

To Mrs.

MADAM,

AS I had the honour of an early acquaintance with the gentleman who had the misfortune to make you—a *wife*; and as the contents of the following papers are closely connected with your own history, it requires the less apology for the freedom of this address. You have been intimately acquainted with Mrs. Rudd for several years, and a confederate in various scenes of prostitution, forgery,

B

and

and intrigue. To extenuate the guilt of your own conduct, you have made many people to believe that this intimacy has been the sole cause of your ruin. But those who know you better, allow this plea to be very consistent with your usual tricks of falshood and deceit, and that you are at least her counterpart.

Did that notorious bawd Mrs C—t—n of Jermyn Street introduce Mrs. Rudd to your acquaintance, or you to Mrs. Rudd?—The overtures were certainly made on your part:—for you paid her the first visit in Scotland-yard, and soon after had the effrontery to introduce her to your own family as an *immaculate* character.

It is a disgrace to the annals of any country, as well as an indelible scandal to human

human nature, that such infamous prostitutes should meet with friendship or protection. And it is a duty and a debt owing to the community from every honest individual, to paint such *virtuous* wives in their true colours, and as a lesson of abhorrence to the rising generation.

The assumed names of *Montague, Read,* and *Lady Catharine Murray,* will instantly remind you of your own infamy, as well as of repeated acts of adultery with different men: and of the horrid conspiracy between yourself and C—l—ns to ruin an innocent and a much injured man. But the proceedings in two very respectable courts of judicature in this kingdom have exculpated his character;—while your's is infamous upon record.

The

The depositions in Doctors Commons * prove you to have been callous to all the feelings of decency, and lost to every sense of shame. The testimony of honest witnesses will demonstrate that a married woman, who had a comfortable house of her own, and might have lived in a sphere of reputation, could wantonly forget the dignity of human nature, and bid defiance to the most sacred obligations. And from an uncommon depravity of disposition would hire lodgings in different parts of the town, and frequent them clandestinely for the purposes of prostitution, riot and debauchery. To sanctify her chastity, an unfeeling mother would sometimes carry an innocent child to be witness of the

* See the depositions in a cause of divorce, Jenkins against Jenkins.

the most shocking scenes of lewdness and intoxication. Let that wicked nurse *Anne Suatt* deny these facts if she can.

It was by the greatest accident, or rather by the kind interposition of providence, that your husband became acquainted with these iniquitous scenes and and vicious practices. And it was with a becoming spirit that he got rid of so infernal a connection. But it was your constant cant to misrepresent his conduct to all his acquaintance, who are now perfectly convinced of your wicked arts and duplicity, and behold the *Fiend* with pitiable contempt.

Indeed, falsehood and intrigue have been your distinguishing characteristics from your infancy; and of this your friends

friends at Windsor can bear ample testimony. For the credit of society and the honour of the sex, it is devoutly to be wished that such a character existed in speculation only.

To exhibit your criminalities at large would prove an endless task and swell this work into volumes. We shall therefore confine ourselves to such particulars as are more immediately connected with the present plan. For your conduct, if thoroughly canvassed, would appear more unpardonable to the eye of candour than that of your colleague. Contemplate for a moment the situation you departed from, and compare it with your present.

When you became acquainted with Mrs. Rudd, you lived in a very reputable

ble sphere of life; was connected with a gentleman of industry and abilities to support your extravagance;—the mother of a lovely child, and visited by several families of fashion and credit. Yet such the frailty of female vanity!—Such the malignity of your unhappy disposition, as wantonly to deviate from the line of duty! Who then will be surprized to hear that you are now discarded by your former acquaintance, and at the mercy of an unprincipled wretch, and a bankrupt? This description, however humiliating, disclaims the imputation of falsehood, malevolence or exaggeration;—it is the simple narrative of truth.—Few anecdotes will illustrate the propriety of your private conduct, antecedent to the intimacy with Mrs. Rudd.

It

It happened at a certain time that the cellars in your own house were plundered of liquors to a considerable value. Upon this discovery your husband thought it incumbent on him to pursue the necessary steps, and to detect, if possible, the offenders; and for this purpose carried his servants before a magistrate. Your memory has proved treacherous on some occasions, yet it is impossible to forget your own confusion at this critical juncture.

After a long and tiresome examination, your own confidential servant, to avoid the confinement of a prison, gave some account of the stolen goods, and acknowledged that her mistress was the—thief. She further disclosed how bountiful you behaved to different persons in the absence of her master; and at times would
clan-

clandestinely convey large cargoes of liquor and other articles, to places of private assignation in the neighbourhood. She confessed withal, that you carried on a secret and infamous correspondence with several men, and made her the innocent instrument of intrigue, and of receiving letters daily by the post directed to herself, but in reality for her *mistress*. Need we to remind you how the magistrates and all present were shocked at this extraordinary account?

After the detection of these facts, every subsequent part of your conduct should be viewed with an equal eye of jealousy. Your husband was exceedingly hurt by such convincing proofs of your wickedness and villainy; acquainted your friends with the particulars of your dishonesty and

C

fidelity

fidelity towards him; and was inclined to consign you to the punishment of criminal justice. The consideration of having an innocent babe, joined to your own tears of penitence and vows of future discretion, prevailed on him to overlook your faults for the present. You was allowed the privilege of future good behaviour, and to ruminate on your past misconduct. But nothing can alter the complexion of human nature. You was born to be the basest of your sex, if falshood and hypocrisy, duplicity and intrigue, constitute an obnoxious character. Your tears of penitence and promises of amendment lasted but a day.

In short, a woman of consummate art and cunning, fond of intrigue, and in love with adulation, can never prove the amiable

able or endearing companion. And a woman destitute of the principles of honour and virtue, is a most dangerous member of the community. Such is the character now in view.

And notwithstanding the various schemes recently adopted to mislead the public, and to *wash the black-a-moor white*: yet the compiler of the following papers, in language unadorned with tropes of rhetorick, or the subtlety of logical argumentation, refers only to facts and the evidence of living witnesses.

LETTER

L E T T E R II.

M A D A M,

THUS far by way of preface. We shall now advert and investigate another character as extraordinary, but perhaps not more abandoned than your own. The character we mean chiefly to develope, is that of Mrs. Margaret Rudd. A character, which has of late caused much speculation, and various reports about her birth and parentage.

Notwithstanding that much boasted *pedigree*, smuggled with some clandestine view, yet it is a fact, that she is descended from very mean and ignoble parents. Her father, whose name was Youngson,
lived

lived as an Apothecary at Lurgan, an obscure village in the North of Ireland; a person of little business or eminence in his profession.

If he had any property, it must have been inconsiderable, and upon his decease fell into the hands of the mortgagee. Her mother was sister to Mr. John Stewart, who farms his own lands of of fourscore pounds a-year, and has a contract to supply the linen manufactory in that part of the kingdom, with potash. The one died when Miss Youngson was an infant; and the other before she attained the age of eight years old.

Thus circumstanced, the charge of her education devolved upon her uncle Stewart;—who from motives of charity

charity sent her to school at Downpatrick. But our heroine did not continue there any considerable time;—such being her genius at that early period for vicious practices and intrigue, that the parents, one and all threatened to take away their children, if one immodest girl was not immediately discarded. It would be too indelicate to relate the particulars of a criminal intercourse that happened between her and one of the servants belonging to this school. The fact, with all its aggravating circumstances, is well known in the town of Downpatrick.

Too many of our boarding schools for young ladies, even in the environs of this metropolis, are at best but nurseries for vice, and the contagion of bad examples;—and where one scabby sheep
may

may infect the whole flock. The domestic plan under the inspection of an exemplary parent, is generally the most safe, if not the most accomplished.

From hence our young heroine was removed to Lurgan, to the care of her grandmother Youngson; an old woman not much above the degree of a pauper. Her uncle Stewart having children of his own; and finding after due enquiries, that her behaviour at the school of Downpatrick had proved so vicious and immoral, would by no means admit her into his own house.

While under the inspection of this poor creature, that *turn* for galantry and intrigue, which has since created so much noise and mischief in this metropolis, was truly

truly conspicuous. For her feeble guardian was perpetually harassed with complaints of an uncommon nature; and consequently obliged to have frequent recourse to discipline and close confinement. However, nothing could tame the wanton disposition, or cool the irregular sallies of such a libidinous girl. Hence she elopes with a recruiting sergeant.—But the compassionate feelings of the commanding officer interposed, and induced him to send the young creature back to her disconsolate friends.

Some time after, Lieutenant Rudd happened to come into that part of the kingdom, on the recruiting service: and in consequence of ten days acquaintance with Miss Youngson, it was his misfortune to make her—a *wife*.

A recital

A recital of the subsequent train of miseries which befel this unhappy man from his conjugal connexion, would excite pity and compassion in the most obdurate breast: and should make all future adventurers, extremely cautious how they embark into the fairy land of matrimony, be the external accomplishments of the object as they may—But of this in its proper place.

D LETTER

L E T T E R III

M A D A M,

HERE our attention is diverted to another object, and a digression which we presume will not be deemed inapplicable. It is somewhat mysterious, considering the true account of Mrs. Rudd's birth and parentage in the foregoing letter, by what means or for what purpose that spurious *pedigree*, blazoned with the names of so many illustrious ancestors, was obtained from Scotland. Without pretending to the gift of prophecy, or the spirit of divination, we may venture to infer from this instance that *pedigrees*, as well as *diplomas*, may be smuggled from that part of the kingdom on easy terms.

It would be nugatory to discuss this matter minutely.—But a person of assumed consequence, has thought proper to abuse a worthy * Baronet, who had been defrauded of a considerable property by the artifices of three notorious *swindlers*; and for modestly presuming to question the pretended *pedigree* of the principal. The publication of the scurrilous writer alluded to, is deserving some notice and a few cursory animadversions.

The indignant keeper of the *Lyon Records*, in a letter inserted in the *Morning Chronicle* of October last, treats his superiors with great freedom, and assumes to himself airs of *infallibility*. However well versed Mr. Cummyng may be in the *niceties* of his native dialect, yet

* Sir Thomas F———.

when he attempts to write in the English tongue, his style is neither grammatical nor polite. He undertakes, like his predecessor of *La Mancha*, to assert the rights of injured innocence: and to exculpate a calumniated individual, while he assumes a total ignorance of her true character. We wish him to be better informed.

“ The absurdity, says this man of
 “ consequence, of asking a gentleman
 “ whether a deed is forged or not, when
 “ the same is distant four hundred miles
 “ from him, needs no comment. In
 “ there was not a moral certainty that
 “ the original of the letter was *holograph*
 “ of Sir Thomas, the illiterate
 “ manner in which it is wrote, and the
 “ barbarous inhumanity of the intention

were

“ were sufficient to sink it below con-
 “ tempt. The character of the *Lyon*
 “ Office is sufficiently established to its
 “ honour throughout all Europe.”

Whatever may be the established repu-
 tation of the *Lyon Office*, there is a moral
 possibility of its being sometimes liable
 to application from impostors. Was it
 impossible for the gentleman of that office
 to be imposed upon or deceived in any
 circumstance relative to Mrs. Rudd?
 Were *they* so well acquainted with the
 particulars of her *case* and story, as to be
 satisfied of the identity of the character
 she assumed? — To answer these inter-
 rogatories in the affirmative, would fa-
 vour of popery and the doctrine of *infalli-*
bility.

Let

Let it be granted, that the gentlemen belonging to the *Lyon Office*, are all *men of honour*, and zealous to assert its credit as far as their province or sphere of action can extend. Without depreciating their merit or abilities, Mrs. Rudd has imposed on wiser men; and it is much to be feared she may again, before providence shall think proper to consign her to that ignominious exit which she has long deserved; but by a late fortunate decision in her favour, has for the present escaped the punishment of criminal justice.

The impudence of some individuals is equal to their ignorance; and the *absurdity* of writing civilly to a person of *little Cummyng's* consequence, is but too obvious from the quotations out of his *barbarous*

barous letter. We shall only observe, that whatever access he might have to persons of fashion and fortune in Scotland; or opportunities of ascertaining the pedigree of Mrs. Rudd; yet that *pedigree* from a long line of noble and royal ancestors, which she has obtruded upon the public, is absolutely false and spurious. And for the truth of this, we refer the curious to many persons now living in the north of Ireland, who remember her father a poor Apothecary at Lurgan, and her mother the daughter of an obscure farmer.

LETTER

L E T T E R IV.

M A D A M,

WE now resume the thread of our narrative, where more important scenes occur, and our heroine launches into public life. For in the month of February 1762, the Reverend William Shaw, minister of Lurgan, by virtue of a licence, and with the consent of Mr. John Stewart, Yeoman, married Valentine Rudd, Lieutenant, and Margaret Youngson, spinster, seventeen years old, both of the parish of Shankill, in the diocese of Down. This Clergyman, in his letter of August last, and now with the editor, says expressly, that the name of Caroline

was

was not mentiond at that time, nor inserted in his instructions. And for what purposes it has been since adopted, is submitted to the conjectures and consideration of the public.

Soon after the aforesaid ceremony was performed, an unfortunate husband had various reasons to repent of his bargain, as well as ample proofs that his wife was deeply versed in the school of intrigue. Before she attained the age of seventeen years, our heroine had given striking marks of her future foibles and profligacy.

It need not here be insisted, that a young woman of a volatile disposition and a tolerable person, did not fail of meeting with plenty of admirers who met with

E

no

no material discouragement. This was the case with our heroine, who condescended to mingle with all classes of people previous to her marriage, and every day brought some fresh adorer to buoy up her vanity, and to extol the charms of her person. This circumstance proved very unfavourable to the character of a wife;—and her conduct in that capacity was so barefaced and indecent, that none of the officers ladies would associate, or be seen in the company of Mrs. Rudd.

What a scene of disappointment and mortification to a bridegroom, who had fondly amused his own fancy with the acquisition of an inestimable treasure of virtue and conjugal fidelity;—And how poignant the consideration of having received no addition of fortune from this
 fresh

fresh engagement, when he perceived the prodigalities of the partner of his hopes and expectations!—The very prospect, even in speculation, is terrifying and dreary to every individual capable of reflection.

From this period, an infatuated husband becomes the heir of misery and affliction. The regiment to which lieutenant Rudd belonged, was now reduced, and himself to half-pay, on the Irish establishment, with an accumulated load of debts contracted by the most extravagant of women. Thus situated and perplexed, it was expedient to change the scene as soon as possible, and to ascertain the best mode of redress.

As he had some property in Hertfordshire,

shire, his return to England was deemed the most prudent step. Their uncle Stewart, having a slender acquaintance with Mr. James Adair, of Soho square, from the contiguity of their lands in the north of Ireland, presumed to give them a letter of recommendation to that gentleman; and from whence arose all the pretended interest and connections with the family of that name. Hence the great intimacy with persons who knew Mrs. Rudd's *family*, and visited her frequently. Hence an ingenuity in forming a valuable acquaintance for various schemes, and the purposes of deception. Hence the generous donations and significant marks of friendship imposed on a credulous dupe or a knave—And hence a capital trail of forgeries, which convicted the *Perrean* and brought them to the final goal of un-
 pitied

pitied ignominy.—But pardon this digression.

Lieutenant Rudd and his wife embarked for England in a West-country trader; and it seems at that time to be his plan to settle in the neighbourhood of Exeter; from a presumption, that the necessaries of life were more reasonable in that part of the kingdom, than nearer the metropolis. Here with his half pay and the income of his estate he hoped to live comfortably; and it is probable he might have done so, had he been blessed with a partner of any prudence and frugality.

However, being a native of St. Albans, and having some property in that
neigh.

neighbourhood, he preferred that spot for the place of residence and retirement. Indeed, his father was a reputable tradesman of that town, and who bestowed on his son a very liberal education; and when he was of proper age, sent him to the University, in order to qualify him for the pulpit.

But the young gentleman not approving this sedentary life, his inclination led him to make choice of another profession; and which proved the means of bringing about the most unhappy connexion that could possibly fall to the share of man. He continued in the country till the summer 1766, when he removed to London, for reasons that shall appear in our next. Notwithstanding the strictest

strictest frugality and economy on his part, yet he had been obliged to make some encroachment on his estate while he lived in the most private manner and in the retirement of the country.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

M A D A M,

THE retirement of the country was by no means a proper sphere for a woman of Mrs. Rudd's spirit and profligacy. The metropolis had various enchantments as well as opportunities for pleasure and intrigue. It was her husband's misfortune to make London the place of residence, and to yield to the importunities of an insolent wife;—the traces of whose character, are like the windings of a labyrinth, dark and impenetrable. To select such particulars of her conduct, as can be well attested,

tested and deserve the notice of the public, is the writer's intention; and to guard the bulk of mankind from future deception, his warmest wish.

It was in Princess Street, Cavendish Square, and at the house of Mr. Mar-
 teilles, a Taylor, that Lieutenant Rudd
 took lodgings for his wife and self when
 they removed to town. It so happened,
 that one Cornet Read lodged likewise in
 the same house, a young man of genteel
 appearance and address; and a proper
 object for a woman of Mrs. Rudd's pas-
 sions, and for the purposes of intrigue.

Dwelling in the same house, and not
 deficient in that assurance which stamps
 the characteristic of a native of Hibernia,
 he soon contracted an acquaintance with

our heroine; whose arts and conversation were too powerful not to attract the heart of a sprightly young fellow. He resolved immediately to lay close siege to a garrison which his former experience in amorous intrigues, convinced him was not likely to hold out against a vigorous attack, but would soon surrender to the terms he should offer: and it was no long time before he carried his point, and insinuated himself into her good graces.

In the month of November, 1776 early in the morning before the family were up our heroine embraced an opportunity which she had been long wishing for, to make a precipitate retreat with this young officer. But according to the modern mode of elopment, their excursion was not into Scotland.

The Mary-le-bone Coffee House, a small distance from their apartments, was the first stage for the completion of their schemes. Here they continued three days and nights, as a gentleman who had stole a great fortune, and married her clandestinely. During this interval, they revelled in high life and in scenes of luxury, till some friend of the Cornet came privately to apprize him, that his landlord Marseilles and the Bailiffs were in close pursuit. Direful intelligence this!

However, a plan was well concerted — the friend pretends to act the part of a relation to the young lady; and undertakes to effect a reconciliation; if she would return instantly to her friends. Women are remarkable for invention and fertile

fertile at expedients; and our heroine has the credit of suggesting this hint and forming the plan. Indeed the scheme appeared so plausible to the people of the house, insomuch, that they believed the story, and assisted to expedite the retreat of this friend and the lady in a hackney coach.

Soon after, the Cornet decamps, but without taking leave or making the least compensation to the people of the house for their kind and hospitable reception; for being young and active, he with the agility of a deer top'd the garden wall.

Having pre-concerted where to meet his fair enchantress, he immediately fled to the place of appointment, and with all the ardor of impatient love. And

what

what greatly added to the transports of joy, was the consideration of having escaped for the present the clutches of those sons of violence, the harpies of the law.

Splendid was their manner of living for some time at Richmond and Greenwich, and elsewhere, on the dilapidations of the public, and the plunder of individuals. At length the most private and retired situation became absolutely necessary; and after various enquiries as well as due deliberation, Mr. Crosby's 'Tripe Shop, at Ratcliff-cross, was agreed upon as the most convenient spot. Here they lived upwards of four months in a wicked and adulterous manner; and our heroine seemed in a fair way for a while to honour her paramour with a living pledge

pledge of their commerce and amours, but in the event it proved abortive.

No finances will suffice for the prodigalities of an abandoned woman; and Cornet Read was now sensible of this, notwithstanding the many unwarrantable steps which he pursued, even by riding out late in the evenings, in order to preserve the connexion, and was at last obliged to fly his country, to avoid the horrors and confinement of a prison.

Many people lost considerable sums by the imprudent conduct of this young officer, particularly Mr. Marseilles the Taylor. And we shall see by and by, whose lot it was to be arrested, and to defray the expences of the long and adulterous correspondence at the Tripe Shop in Ratcliff.

LETTER

L E T T E R VI.

M A D A M,

IT is now time to return to Lieutenant Rudd, who, after the most assiduous enquiries could not find or trace his wife; but concluded that she was gone to Ireland with Cornet Read. Being very unhappy in his own mind, and in want of money, he applies to one Lary in Park Street, and sells to him what few things and articles of apparel his wife had left.

However, he at length received an explicit account of his wife as well as of
the

the infamous transactions during the period of her elopement ; for to his sorrow many persons were now in search of him for the payment of considerable debts contracted by his wife, and several actions commenced against an unfortunate husband.

Having learnt where his wife cohabited with her galant, the injured husband repaired directly to the spot ; but he was not permitted to see her. He afterwards repeated his visits to the same place, but it was all in vain ; and he almost despaired, though he was determined to exert his utmost endeavours, to reclaim a woman for whom he had so great a regard.

On the twenty-sixth of February 1767,
Mr.

Mr. Rudd, in return for his great anxiety and endeavours to reclaim an abandoned woman, was arrested at the request and by the direction of his wife, and sent to the Poultry. On the 14th of the ensuing month, for want of bail, he was removed on a writ of *habeas corpus* to the King's Bench prison; where he remained till the 7th of May, when he was discharged by a rule of court on special bail.

This case is singularly cruel and oppressive; and seems to argue a degree of latitude in the laws of this country, which give a wife an unlimited, if not an improper power. Our eminent sages of the law, and persons of benevolence, would render honest service to their country, by bringing this matter into immediate consideration,

G

sideration,

sideration, and consequently prove the means of saving individuals from destruction.

Lieutenant Rudd thought it extremely hard and cruel to be imprisoned for debts contracted by his wife, while she and her gallant lived together in a wicked and adulterous manner: but although he had experienced his wife's ungenerous treatment, and in all probability might have cast the plaintiff if it had come to trial, as *Read* was the proper person who ought to have paid the debt, yet so tender was Lieutenant Rudd of his wife's reputation, that rather than expose her in a court of judicature, he compounded the matter, and thus quietly put an end to it.

Soon after his enlargement and the inconveniencies of a prison, Mr. Rudd found it necessary to take shelter at Mrs. Kennedy's, in the verge of the court—a multiplicity of fresh actions being out against him on account of his wife. What situation can be conceived so deplorable as that of this persecuted and distressed husband?—And what was to be done to extricate himself from such a load of heavy calamities?—He had now no alternative, but to sell his patrimony in Hertfordshire, discharge the debts, and sue for a divorce from the worst and most abandoned of women.

Accordingly application was made to Mr. Blake, Attorney of Essex Street, and also to a proctor in the commons, in order

order to accomplish these salutary purposes. But it must *here* be observed, that previous to these steps, and in perfect confidence with the consummate villany of the basest of her sex, Lieutenant Rudd, while in prison, had been served with a citation from the Commons for cruelty and adultery. B—g—ve of infamous memory, returned a citation in behalf of Margaret, and not *Caroline*, Rudd. Torriano appeared for Valentine Rudd, cited to libel;—continued to next term:—but no libel was given by Margaret Rudd or her proctor.

Tho' Lieutenant Rudd ardently wished for a divorce and a final release from his infernal connexion; yet as Captain *Read* could not be served with the regular process to maintain an action for criminal
conversa-

conversation, or for want of evidence to ascertain facts, it did not take place. Perhaps it might not correspond at this period with Lieutenant Rudd's circumstances to proceed with success in so expensive an undertaking.

The necessary process to obtain a divorce in this country is almost endless, as well as attended with a prodigious expence; and as matters stand at present, the due consideration of this subject seems loudly to demand the attention of the Legislature. In other countries, the mode of proceeding in such cases is much easier and more expeditious; and if marriage is an human institution, why should not human laws provide an easy remedy to dissolve it, whenever the obligation of the covenant becomes forfeited by either party.

However,

However, the attorney was more successful with regard to the estate at St. Alban's; which he sold; and Lieutenant Rudd found himself possessed of a considerable sum of money, which enabled him to discharge the large debt contracted at the tripe shop, in Ratcliff-cross, and many others.

LETTER

L E T T E R VII.

M A D A M,

DURING the confinement of the husband in prison, our heroine had an opportunity to form various connexions, and some useful ones; and though she received very handsome presents almost every day, yet her extravagance would never keep within bounds. But her principal aim, as well as particular boast, was the peculiar method of rendering feeble and aged lovers exceedingly enamoured of her. The artful lady failed not to make a proper use of such doating admirers;—she caressed, fondled, and

and exerted all the craft of woman to gain an entire predominancy.

Many instances of this nature will occur in the course of this narrative. And as her temper and genius never approved of an inactive state of life, it happened on a time, that she connected herself with a notorious gang of *Swindlers*, and among whom she bore a principal character; being represented to credulous tradesmen as a lady of great fortune, the natural daughter of the Pretender, and grandchild of Lord Dundee. This mode of life brought in for a while large revenues, till unfortunately for her, the clan was broke, and numbers fell into the hands of justice.

As the Pretender's daughter had
been

been so extremely serviceable in carrying on this business, it is no wonder that strict search was made after her ladyship, but it was all in vain. Whether at this juncture, or when Captain Read absconded from Ratcliff, and that infamous connexion ceased for the present, yet it is an undoubted fact, that our heroine came to lodge at an Oil Shop in St. Martin's Lane.

Here we are furnished with an anecdote worthy the observation of the public, and which must convince every candid reader of her early proficiency in the arts of forgery and deceit. Being rather bare of cloaths, as well as destitute of money, her landlady introduced her to the shop of Mr. Hogard, Haberdasher, in Long Acre, who trusted her with

H

goods

goods to the value of four guineas, on the recommendation of his neighbour.

A woman hackneyed in all the ways of vice and prostitution, seldom wants effrontery to promote any scheme of villainy or fraud. Soon after the first interview, she again repaired to the same shop, with a larger demand for goods:—but the honest tradesman, judging from appearances, that she must be a woman of the town, refused to comply with so extraordinary a request. And in justice to himself observed, that it was his inviolable rule never to trust persons of her complexion with goods to any large amount.

Neither daunted nor disappointed at this refusal, she produced a note for one hundred

hundred pounds, payable thirty days after date; assured Mr. *Hogard*, that she was a lady of family and fortune; and consequently above the necessity of being obliged to him for credit, or for any other favour in a tradesman's power. In short, she only desired him to discount the note, pay his own bill, and give her the balance.

Mr. *Hogard* somewhat surprised, and rather confounded at so unexpected an explanation, desired her to leave the note, and he would prepare the goods and send them agreeably to the order. But on consulting his men of business, they all agreed that the note was a gross forgery—because the names of the drawer, acceptor and endorser, were wrote by one and the same hand.

After

After the detection of this fact, every subsequent part of her conduct should be viewed and investigated with an equal eye of jealousy. Mr *Hogard* omitted no pains to trace the drawer, acceptor and indorser; but, all in vain. And though the note was due in the month of May, yet he kept it in his possession till the latter end of August following, when he delivered it up into the hands of Lieutenant Rudd, at Mr. Thompson's, in Scotland Yard, and was paid his debt in full.

This anecdote exhibits strong circumstances to believe that this note for one hundred pounds was forged; and that a certain *female* was an early adept in the most iniquitous practices. Will the many volunteers enlisted in the service of
a bad

a bad cause, now applaud this paragon of conscious innocence, and acquit her of every criminal intention?—Will the tongue of folly or credulity pretend to say, that she did not sign those bonds which convicted the Perreaus, and brought them to an ignominious death?

The texture of her delicate feelings must be shocked at the recollection of an anecdote which she fondly imagined had been buried in oblivion——And her *sublimity of soul added to a refinement of sentiment*, must be satisfied of the authenticity of the fact, by a reference to the party who is now alive.

L E T T E R

L E T T E R VIII.

M A D A M,

Notwithstanding the comfortable sum of money as mentioned in a former letter, and which an unfortunate and persecuted husband had received from the sale of his estate; yet there was a certain prospect of its being soon expended by the continual demands on account of his wife. It must be a very cruel as well as an unpleasant task for a man of feeling, to part with those paternal acres acquired by the industry of honest ancestors—*And* to be under an absolute necessity of appropriating their whole value to discharge debts wantonly contracted by

by the prodigalities of an abandoned prostitute, is a consideration extremely mortifying. Yet such was the case of the unfortunate man more immediately connected with the thread of our narrative.

If there is a curse entailed upon man and irremediable this side of the grave, it is *that* of being connected with a vicious, artful, and extravagant wife. All other misfortunes are surmountable in time, and may be removed by a concurrence of fortunate events—while this *evil* admits of no release or alleviation but from the hand of death.

Thrice happy they who have never felt the afflictions, or experienced the wretchedness of such a condition! And it is to be wished for the honour of humanity

manity, and the peace of individuals, that many of our modern *wives* had never been born. For they seem to have entered into the most sacred obligations, and to have coveted the name of *wife*, only as a cloak for profligacy and licentiousness, or a sanction for scenes of darkness and iniquity. The characters in view justify these melancholy reflections, as will more fully appear in the prosecution of our plan: and should prove a lesson to youth how cautious they ought to be from sacrificing their happiness at the shrine of external accomplishments, fortune or appearances.

These observations were natural to the unfortunate husband now confined to his lodgings in the verge of the court, and who dared not to venture abroad for cer-

tain

tain reasons, except on *one* day in the week. He had, nevertheless, the generosity to hire lodgings in the neighbourhood for an ungrateful wife, and to be responsible for a reasonable maintenance. Her former gallant was become invisible, or had absconded on account of debts and other misdemeanours;—it was therefore probable that so infamous an attachment would entirely subside.

From repeated assurances of her contrition and amendment, as well as the interposition of friends, Mr. Rudd was almost prevailed upon to forgive and cohabit with his wife. And about this time, and for this purpose, a treaty was actually set on foot by their respective friends, and a perfect reconciliation would have ensued, had the promises on her part

I proved

proved sincere. All former foibles would have been buried in oblivion, the remainder of their lives might have passed happy and uninterrupted, their names escaped public censure, and recent scenes of villainy and bloodshed precluded.

But nothing can reclaim an abandoned woman, or at least *one* of our heroine's complexion. An old acquaintance being just arrived from abroad, and on his rout for Ireland to take possession of a considerable estate, which had devolved to him on the decease of an uncle, immediately dispatched his emissaries to apprehend his fair enchantress of the joyous event.

Upon the receipt of these welcome tidings her former fondness for the lover
awake

awakened with redoubled ardour; every resolution of amendment instantly forsook her, and the fair inconstant prepared for a second elopement. In short, away she hurried in a post chaise, and carried with her as a companion an innocent young girl, who fell a victim to the most diabolical artifices and intrigue.—But *here* the rules of decency and other considerations oblige us to draw a veil, and to omit the particulars of a barbarous transaction.

It seems that a regular correspondence had subsisted between our heroine and this gallant ever since his flight from the tripe shop at Ratcliff highway. Lieutenant Rudd by some means was apprized of this correspondence, and on going to his wife's lodgings he had the curiosity

ty to examine the drawers, where he found a very curious collection of amorous epistles. This event distressed the delicacy of Mrs. Rudd extremely; and she afterwards endeavoured, by every artifice as well as by promises of speedy preferment, to seduce an officer who lodged in the same house with her husband in the verge of the court, to recover these precious manuscripts at any rate. But such an attempt was impracticable; the husband having had the precaution to lodge them in proper hands.

It is reasonable to suppose that this last elopement would break off the intended reconciliation with her husband—wean him of every spark of affection, and rouse his indignation against so many repeated acts of falshood and infidelity to the marriage

riage bed. However, after staying out two days and nights, the innocent lady returned with as perfect composure as if she had only been upon a trifling visit. It was in vain she sued for an interview with her husband, who refused to see her, and was determined not to maintain a woman so abandoned, and who pursued every method to bring both herself and him into disgrace. Accordingly he discharged the debts at the house from whence she last eloped, and warned the people in writing, to trust his wife no longer.

Moreover, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the daily advertiser of the 8th of November 1767, in the following words—"Whereas Magaret, wife of Valentine Rudd, gentleman, has with-

withdrawn herself from her husband, this is therefore to caution all persons against giving her credit on her husband's account, as he will not pay any debts she contracts."

Let the deluded multitude now pity this fair innocent!—Let her advocates candidly exculpate her conduct, if they can! Let the myriads of volunteers enlisted in her service plead the *texture of her delicate feelings*; and insist that these harmless excursions were perfectly consistent with a *sublimity of soul added to refinement of sentiment*.

LETTER

L E T T E R IX.

M A D A M,

WHEN our heroine returned from the last excursion, her finances, it seems, were at a low ebb ; and it was expedient that her gallant should prosecute his route to Ireland and take possession of his uncle's estate. However poignant the pangs of parting from his fair enchantress might be, yet he was under the indispensable necessity of leaving her for the present, and without those pecuniary considerations requisite to support a woman above indigence and distress.

Thus abandoned and forlorn, the fair
in-

inconstant was obliged to sue for a night's lodging at the house from whence she had last eloped. The people there had the compassion to accommodate the petitioner for a night; and next morning they waited on her husband, who lived privately in the verge of the court, in order to work on his good nature and forgiving temper, and to negotiate terms of accommodation in behalf of the wife.

But the injured husband, sensible of repeated wrongs, of the most ungenerous treatment, and roused with indignation, positively refused to listen to any proposals;—insisted that he would not be responsible for future debts or expence; and that they ought by no means to harbour and countenance such a foul adulteress.

Though

Though her favourite gallant was gone to Ireland on business of some consequence and emolument to himself, yet such the powers of attraction, and the fascinating arts of a certain sorceress!—and such his own infatuated attachment to her charms!—that this son of Mars returned in a short time, and about this critical juncture arrived in the metropolis to alleviate the distresses of our heroine.

As soon as he had accommodated himself with lodgings at Mrs. Macab's in Frith Street Soho, and where for prudential motives he assumed the name of Captain *Shoe*, he strolled in search of his quenna. Few nights after his arrival, and as he was patrolling the streets, he accidentally met with the object of his wishes and ushered her to the new apartments.

This is an event which has not hitherto transpired to many, and what our heroine has had the effrontery to deny, though the connexion is well known to persons of undoubted veracity;—especially to Courtoy the hair dresser and deputation who at this period and in their vocation waited on Mr. and Mrs. Shee. Our heroine happens to be particularly distinguished by a remarkable * scar in a certain place near the face, and which was received in consequence of unlawful adventures—perhaps in a fit jealousy, and for infidelity to the marriage bed. It would have been fortunate for the community, as well as for the welfare of individuals, if providence had so ordered

* Janetty, an Italian Friar knows Mrs. B. and Mrs. Shee to be one and the same person by a scar on her neck.

matters, and that this wound had proved effectual.

Captain *Sher* and lady lived at these apartments in Frith Street for some months in great luxury and festivity, and on a presumption of being persons of great affluence and property in Ireland. But the smiles of fortune are fickle and precarious, and human happiness is ever liable to casualties or diminution.—A continual scene of gaily and extravagance had made a great encroachment on the Captain's finances and revenues; and now his necessities compelled him to be troublesome to his friends, and frequently to solicit a supply.

Thus at length they found his retreat as well as his mode of living; and having

ing a particular regard for his father, an alderman of Dublin, they sent him an explicit account of his son's situation—of having assumed a new name, and the infamous connexion with a married woman—and that he was in the high road to destruction both of body and soul.

The alderman, full of parental tenderness and affection, was exceedingly shocked at the receipt of this disagreeable intelligence, and extremely alarmed at the disappointment of felicity to an aged parent and his family. Wishing to prevent, if possible, the total ruin of his son, the alderman embarked for England with the utmost anxiety and expedition, and when he reached the metropolis, was advised to stop at Forest's coffee house,
 Charing

Charing cross, and there accommodated with lodgings.

Having made the necessary enquiries how to find and where to see his son, he directed his course one morning to Macab's in Frith Street, where he surprized Mr. and Mrs. *Shee* in bed together; and was made to understand that this *virtuous* pair had cohabited there for some time.

The alderman, as the first preliminary towards a reconciliation with his son, insisted that the lady should be instantly discarded, and which was readily agreed. Probably, this proved the last interview with this dissipated young officer, as well as the final period to their wicked and illicit amours. The amount of debts contracted during this intercourse was astonishing;

nishing; and perhaps the impoverished state of his finances, together with the daily apprehension and horrors of a prison, was the principal consideration that induced him so readily to comply with the request and remonstrances of a tender parent.

The alderman being determined that the son of his hopes and industry should no longer stay in London, or in the neighbourhood of a fatal enchantress, carried him over to Dublin, after paying his debts. Whether from motives of shame, or for want of principle, he did not disclose one capital debt at this time to the father.

But we shall now bid a final *adieu* to this profligate young man, who died in prison

prison at Dublin three hundred pounds
 in debt to Marseilles the taylor; and
 who in a great measure owed his ruin to
 the fascinating powers of Mrs. Rudd.
 But her arts have sent many, besides
 him, on an untimely voyage for the cape
 of *good hope*.

LETTER

LETTER X.

MADAM,

TO be discarded in so abrupt a manner as mentioned in our last, and without that degree of ceremony due to the softness of the sex, was a consideration extremely mortifying to a lady of our heroine's consequence and refined pretensions. The surprise occasioned by the arrival of an unexpected visitor was truly affecting, and caused much distress as well as confusion to delicate feelings, added to a sublimity of soul—And this event made our heroine once more to wander a citizen of the Streets, and to rely on her own ingenuity, and the chapter of accidents for support.

At

At length, by some means or other, she stumbled at the door of one Mr. Hyde, who then kept a house in Northumberland Street, in the Strand; and where she procured a recommendation to lodge and board, under a pretence of being the wife of a gentleman of character, and a man of fortune. The landlord being thus deceived in respect to *her* circumstances and *his* own expectations, cheerfully entrusted his guest with board and lodging, and doubted not of being honestly paid some time or other.

But having no visible means of subsistence, except the constant practice of going out in the dusk of the evenings to walk the streets; the landlord was justly alarmed, became clamorous and uneasy on various accounts. It seems

L

that

At

that he had now been undeceived by the kindness of a friend or the representations of a neighbour, who apprized him, that his guest lived apart from her husband, as plainly appeared from the contents of a public advertisement exhibited for his perusal.

After ocular demonstration of his own credulity, and the imposition on her part, he immediately repaired to Mrs. Kennedy's, in the verge of the court, and applied to an unfortunate husband for the payment of a considerable bill, for lodging and board to his wife.

But the persecuted husband refused payment for the present—remonstrated against the legality of the debt—shewed him the advertisement as quoted in a former

former letter, and set him at defiance. Notwithstanding this expostulation, the landlord suffered his guest to continue at his house for some time longer, and took another mode of application to the husband for satisfaction to his demand.

The defendant wishing to decline, if possible, the expences of the law as well as the issue of a trial, offered to compound the matter, and to pay at the rate of a guinea a week, in full proportion to his income, and rather more than his perplexed circumstances could afford. But this proposal, though highly legal, and altogether reasonable, was rejected as not satisfactory to the plaintiff.

Proceedings were then commenced at the suit of Hyde, and a trial ensued in the

the first sittings after Easter term 1768, when Solicitor General Dunning, and Mr. Mansfield, were the counsel for the defendant.

The question to be tried—what the plaintiff ought to recover of the defendant for the expences of his wife who had eloped from him, and was well known by the plaintiff to live separate from him. And here it is to be observed, that if the defendant, under the circumstances of the case, was obliged to maintain his wife at all, it could only be in a reasonable way, and according to his degree and estate.

It is also presumed, that the money tender'd in court at the rate of a guinea a week, was at all events a full satisfaction

tion to the plaintiff, for the board and lodging of Mrs. Rudd, for she lodged in his two pair of stairs; and the manner of the plaintiff's living was very mean, and she found her own tea, sugar, wine, coals and candles.

It seems to be a settled rule of law, that the necessaries supplied a wife, whilst she lives separate from the husband, should be only necessary and convenient for the husband's estate as well as degree.

How is it in the present case?—The husband, Mr. Rudd, is a Lieutenant on half pay on the Irish establishment, which produces him thirty-two pounds a year; and he has the interest of about sixteen hundred pounds, the money left from the

the sale of his estate, which produces at a current calculation sixty pounds annually.

• So that his whole income is but ninety six pounds a year, and if obliged to pay one pound eleven shillings and sixpence a week, the plaintiff's charge for his wife's board and maintenance, he would have nothing left for himself to live on, without breaking in upon the principal of his little fortune. Wherefore, it was hoped that the court and jury would consider the money tendered into court, as an ample satisfaction for the plaintiff's demand, considering the defendant's degree and estate.

To prove the manner of Mrs. Rudd's living at her former lodgings, what she paid

paid a week; and that she lived apart from her husband, and also that the plaintiff was made acquainted with Mrs. Rudd's situation, a witness was called, and on oath gave satisfaction to the court with regard to these facts.

When the plaintiff took her in, and that he trusted her at his peril, and knew of the advertisement being inserted by the defendant, and that a guinea a week was an ample satisfaction to the plaintiff, another witness was called, and deposed accordingly.

To prove that the defendant's wife eloped from her last lodgings, previous to her coming to the plaintiff's house, and stayed out two nights—to prove the poor manner of Mrs. Rudd's living in
the

the plaintiff's family—and to prove the defendant's circumstances and estate, other reputable witnesses were called, and gave satisfaction to the court with relation to every and all such particulars.

LETTER

L E T T E R XI.

M A D A M,

OUR last concluded with some particulars of the cause between Hyde and Rudd; and to prove the authenticity of our assertions, we also gave an abstract of the brief of one of the counsel. Perhaps, it may not be improper here to insert a true copy of the affidavit of Valentine Rudd, and which may tend to illustrate or corroborate the contents of some of the preceding letters.

Easter Term, 26th April, 1768. First sitting at Westminster-hall.

“ Valentine Rudd, of the parish of St.

M

Martin

Martin in the Fields, in the liberty of Westminster, and county of Middlesex, Gentleman, maketh oath, and saith, that he was a Lieutenant in the army in Ireland in the year 1762, and during that time, he this deponent, at Lurgan, in the county of Armagh, became acquainted with Margaret Youngson, and was married to her there, according to the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, by the Curate of that place, by licence, and by the consent of her uncle Mr. John Stewart, who was her guardian, and gave her in name to this deponent. And this deponent saith, that he lived with his said wife in Ireland, till the conclusion of the last war, when the regiment to which this deponent belonged was reduced, and this deponent was put upon half pay; and thereupon this deponent

deponent came into England with his said wife, in order to manage and transact this deponent's own affairs; he being intitled to a considerable freehold and copyhold estate in the county of Hertford, where this deponent was born, and which estate this deponent received the rents of, and therewith, and with his halfpay, continued to live with, and maintain his said wife in a comfortable manner, from the time of his coming into England, which was in or about the year 1763, to the time of her acquaintance with the said defendant Benjamin Bowen Read, in the year 1768; and during that time, this deponent and his wife lived in a very harmonious and affectionate manner, this deponent having no ground to suspect her being any way unfaithful to him. And this deponent saith, that in the summer of

of the year 1766, he and his said wife went to lodge at the house of one Marfeilles a Taylor, in Princes Street, Cavendish Square, in the first floor. And soon after they went to lodge there, the said defendant, Benjamin Bowen Read, came to lodge there likewise in the second floor, and by that means the said defendant became acquainted with this deponent and his said wife; and he the said defendant then passed for a young gentleman, intitled to a considerable estate; and this deponent and the said Read grew very intimate together, and in the month of October or November 1766, the said Read, left his said lodgings in Princes Street aforesaid, but this deponent had not then suspected that there was any intrigue between the said Read, and his

this

this deponent's said wife. And this deponent saith, that a very short time after the said Read went away, a letter from him was brought to this deponent's said wife, at which this deponent expressed some surprise and anger, and by means thereof a slight quarrel ensued between this deponent and his said wife, and she thereupon refused to lie with this deponent that night, and the next morning she got up before the other people in the house, and went away and left this deponent, and co-habited, as this deponent afterwards found, with the said defendant, Read, and lived with him at one Bradshaw's, a Surgeon and Apothecary, at Ratcliff Highway, where this deponent went to enquire after her, but this deponent was not permitted to see her, though
 she

she was then in the house with the said
 Read. And this deponent saith, that
 his said wife continued to co-habit with
 the said Read, as this defendant verily
 believed, and to secrete herself from this
 deponent till the month of March last,
 when the said Read went abroad, as was
 given out by this deponent's said wife:
 and this deponent was soon afterwards
 arrested for the board and lodging of his
 said wife, during part of the time she so
 lived away from this deponent. And
 this deponent saith, that he hath not till
 lately been able to obtain proper evi-
 dences of facts to maintain an action
 against the said Read, for criminal con-
 versation with this deponent's said wife.
 And this deponent saith, that he hath
 been informed and believes, that the said
 Read is now in England. But this de-
 ponent

ponent saith, that if he, this deponent, was to bring an action against him, the said Read, and serve him with a copy of process, only with holding him to bail, he this deponent would lose the benefit and effect of such action, as this deponent verily believes. For this deponent saith, that he believes that the said Read, would, upon his being served with a process, go abroad out of this kingdom; for he, the said Read, is an Irishman by birth, as this deponent hath heard and believes; and his property, which is considerable, as this deponent hath heard, lies in that kingdom, he having no property here, as this deponent believes. And this deponent saith, he hath heard and been informed, that the said Read attained the age of 25 years, in October last, and that therefrom he became intitled

titled to the possession of a considerable estate in Ireland, of the yearly value of two thousand pounds, or some such large sum of money."

The contents of this affidavit seem to elucidate many particulars, and exactly to correspond with the several facts hitherto insisted on in the course of our narrative. The period of their coming to England is confirmed; and the elopement from Princes Street is also acknowledged.

The other circumstances and anecdotes intervened from November 1766, to the date of the foregoing affidavit in the year 1768, when our heroine lived altogether separate from her husband, and when the defendant Read could not

be

be found — having secreted himself for some time, under the assumed name of Captain *Shee* ; or had just sailed for Ireland, in company with his father, as mentioned in a former letter.

N LETTER

L E T T E R X I I .

M A D A M ,

OUR heroine still continued her former plan of life; still contracted large debts, and still left her husband to pay for them. No wonder that these continual drains and repeated demands soon exhausted the principal remaining from the sale of his patrimony and small estate. The persecuted husband found himself again arrested, and detainers lodged against him at the suit of different creditors whom he never saw; and that it was impossible once more to avoid or escape the confinement of a prison. His situation was truly pitiable as well as melancholy.

It seems that the wife had concerted a plan to compel a reconciliation with her husband, notwithstanding repeated instances of elopement and misconduct; but how she could imagine that he would again become a dupe to her insinuating methods, is wonderful! And how a man of spirit could listen to any proposals or terms of reconciliation with so abandoned a wife, is still more astonishing! Perhaps, his distresses and the difficulties wherein her schemes had involved him, admitted of no other alternative.

However, being perpetually harassed with debts, law suits and arrests, and a variety of other troubles on account of his wife, the unfortunate husband thought at high time that matters should be settled

on

on some permanent plan. With this view and about this time, their respective friends interposed, held several conferences, and a treaty was set on foot, either for a reconciliation or a total separation on equitable terms.

During this negotiation our heroine personally waited on her husband in the verge of the court; implored his forgiveness and made solemn vows of amendment, of conjugal fidelity and attachment for the future. There is no accounting for the bewitching powers and the flattering hypocrisy of an artful syren. Heathen writers abound with instances in confirmation of this assertion; and we read in sacred song how the wisest men have been imposed upon and became victims to the wiles and craft of a woman.

The

The doating husband has frequently repented, of his own credulity, as well as the conviction of his own better judgment and experience. The person more immediately in view still retaining a degree of fondness for the most ungrateful woman, or at least not able to withstand her usual arts of falshood and duplicity, gave credit to the sincerity of her protestations — a reconciliation took place, and they came to live together at Mr. Thompson's in Scotland yard.

After so many instances of ill-usage and infidelity to the marriage bed—of debts wantonly contracted, law-suits, arrests, and imprisonment, how could any husband entertain the most distant idea, or bear the thoughts of a reconciliation with such an abandoned wife?—A man
of

of resentment and proper feelings would have embraced any alternative, rather than cohabit with so foul an adultress.

Her subsequent conduct and demeanour, as will soon appear, merited no returns of fondness or indulgence, and the deluded husband had ample cause to repent of his own credulity and attachment. For her tears of penitence and promises to reclaim, lasted but a day; they were only meant as a cloak of deception, and to enable her the more easily to effect her own purposes and schemes of intrigue. No long time after this reconciliation, a distressed husband was heard to exclaim against his wife to the following effect.

“ Oh ! Peggy, Peggy, you have now forgot that I sent you back to your
grand-

grandmother at Lurgan, and took no advantage of your youth or indiscretion, though you followed me twenty miles. You have also forgot that I married you in an unguarded hour—that I have sold my patrimony to pay your debts and indulge your extravagance—that I have been always partial to your foibles and levities—that my behaviour towards you was tender and affectionate, and could have kissed the ground whereon you trod. Surely! I merit better treatment at your hands in this my deep distress, O most ungrateful of women!”

How could an unfeeling *wretch* turn a deaf ear to this artless tale, and to the urgent necessities of the man she had ruined? Should any person doubt the reality of these complaints, or the distress of
the

the supplicant, we wish to refer them for further satisfaction to the landlady in Buckingham court, and whose name has been repeatedly mentioned. And we shall see by and bye in what scenes of plenty our heroine revelled, when the above mentioned soliloquy was extorted from the most unfortunate husband.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIII.

M A D A M,

SOON after the reconciliation mentioned in our last, they came to lodge in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor square, and where your intimacy with our heroine commenced.—From this period you and Mrs. Rudd became inseparable companions and confederate in various scenes of vice, to the degradation of the sex—the ruin of your respective husbands, and the annoyance of all your neighbours.

A married woman is the guardian of her husband's honour, and should be extremely cautious what company she keeps, and what connexions she ought to

O make.

make. If not strictly virtuous herself, at least jealous to keep up appearances. Versed from your infancy in the school of levity and intrigue, you had not the precaution to preserve an honourable engagement. Though you have lately made some persons to believe, that your own ruin is entirely owing to an intimacy with Mrs. Rudd; yet we who know you better, allow you to be at least her counterpart.

The lodgings at Mrs. Cranston's in Park Street were common for the reception of your several gallants, and for the purposes of riot, prostitution and intrigue. Perhaps, some of the most abandoned women within the purlieus of Covent garden, would blush at the recital of the infamous correspondence and con-

nexions

nexions in this house.—But here the rules of decency oblige us to stop.

Lieutenant Rudd soon found cause to repent of his own credulity, as well as of fondness for his wife. He had now convincing proofs what slender credit is due to the most solemn protestations from an artful and profligate woman. It was his misfortune about this time, as you well remember, to be confined to a bed of sickness, and to labour under a complaint which baffled the skill of the most eminent surgeons.

During this gloomy period his wife was always abroad, or revelling with different men in the adjoining apartments—indulging herself in every mode of extravagance, and totally unmindful of her husband.

husband's situation or interest. It was natural at such a juncture to reflect on his own folly in giving credit to her late promises of amendment, and to suppose her capable of being ever actuated by the principles of honour, sincerity, or truth.

These reflections had their full force, operated powerfully on the mind, and increased the violence of his distemper. In his distress and the extremity of danger, he sent for his landlady in the verge of the court—complained heavily of his wife—utter'd the most bitter lamentations against her undutiful behaviour—and wished for death to terminate his wretchedness and afflictions.

However, his complaint at length yielded to the powers of medicine, and
he

he began to gain a gradual share of bodily health.—But the mind was still uneasy and out of order—especially when he saw the prodigalities of his wife, her elegant wardrobe, and the many articles of extravagance. Conscious that his circumstances could not afford such fantastical superfluities, and apprehensive they must have been obtained by dishonourable means—he remonstrated on the occasion, and against the many visitors that came in pursuit of his wife and frequented his lodgings.

It was also seasonable to upbraid her of unkindness and want of attention during his severe illness—of wanton excursions by day, and of absence from home for whole nights. These remonstrances had no effect—they made not the least impression.

pression. It is happy for the bulk of mankind, as well as for the peace of individuals, that we do not meet with many instances of such abandoned wives!

In behalf of this unfortunate husband, it is alledged by all his early acquaintance, that he was a sober, good-natured man, very tender and fond of his wife, and even partial to her levities.—But oppression and ill-usage will render a wise man mad, and sour the best of tempers. Probably, this was his case at the time we mention—when a variety of domestic grievances admitted of no alternative, but recourse to liquors and intoxication. Hence frequent altercations with his wife at unseasonable hours; and sometimes pistols were fired to the terror of the neighbourhood.

In

In short, a serious skirmish at last happened at Cranston's. He in his own defence bastinated his wife severely—she returned the compliment by swearing the peace against her husband. Here a final separation took place — when he was forced to fly into France, and she to change her quarters.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIV.

MADAM,

TO trace the windings of our heroine's career, and follow her to every place of elopement or intrigue, would prove an endless as well as an insuperable task. It would be to pursue a path terrifying in the commencement, impracticable in the prosecution, and big with destruction in the end. However, we have the best authority to say, that after the final skirmish with her husband in Park Street, she was ushered to Mrs. Dodd's in Oxford Street, as a young creature just come from Wales, and totally unacquainted with the ways of the town.

Women

Women are remarkable for invention, and seldom at a loss how to form a tolerable excuse, and to palliate an awkward situation. This pretext, however plausible, did not long conceal her true character and connexions. The new landlady soon taxed her guest of being the wife of an officer who lodged at Cranston's, and she admitted the charge—acknowledged an elopement—urged in her own defence that her husband had beat her severely, and shewed many bruises on her arms.

Being now released from his controul, and at liberty to act unrestrained, the young man allured a multitude of followers, and dealt her favours on the most advantageous terms. When our heroine first occupied these apartments, her finances

P

were

were exceedingly low and scanty; inso-
much that the people of the house sup-
plied her necessities with one splendid
shilling at a time. Even the milkman
was forced to summon her to the court
of conscience for the contents of a trifling
bill.

The advantages of trade are precari-
ous—but the perquisites of her avo-
cation were now considerable, and the
smiles of fortune seemed to preponderate
in her favour for a time. Hence she was
enabled at this period to keep a coach as
well as a chair occasionally; and though
the celebrated Lord D—— was the
ostensible gallant, and who escorted her
to many places public as well as private,
yet she carried on a correspondence, and
had frequent interviews with several other
friends

friends behind the curtain. It can by no means be supposed that a woman of our heroine's passions could prove faithful to a person of his Lordship's exhausted finances and debilitated constitution.

While she lodged at Cranston's, and during her husband's severe illness, she had the art and dexterity to make extensive connexions, and some useful ones:— especially with that infamous pimp *Kildare*, who then kept a notorious house, in a court adjoining to Pall Mall. This merchant of female *chastity*, was quite an adept in his profession; and paid the most assiduous attention to the several ladies on his list, at regular hours and places of appointment. It was at Grosvenor Gate, and generally between the hours of twelve and one, that he used to pay his daily

daily attendance on our heroine, and to adjust the plan of meeting her customers in the evening at his own house or elsewhere

You also, madam, have some knowledge of this faithful imp, and of the laws of his profession. But your acquaintance, like a noxious planet, spreads ruin and contagion all around; even Mrs. Rudd was obliged to drop it at last. Our merchant had cause to repent that you ever frequented his house; for your presence for a night occasioned him a stagnation of trade, and almost the loss of his life. When you waited there on fat *Lee* of the guards, and in the course of conversation gloried that you was a married woman, he instantly turned you out with indignation, and threatened

to run the master of the ceremonies through the body for introducing him to such unlawful game. An anecdote somewhat similar must not here be omitted.

It was a practice with our heroine, to write to personages whom she never saw, and to make overtures of intrigue and assignation. It unfortunately happened, that she once sent a card of this nature to an officer of the guards, and now on his destination for America. Being startled at the contents, and totally unknown to the writer, he had the curiosity to make some pertinent enquiries about so extraordinary a character. The messenger evaded an explanation as much as possible; but at length was obliged to be communicative.

Matters

Matters were then concerted, that the wished for interview should take place. Accordingly, our heroine had immediate recourse to dress, and to all those arts and elegancies so necessary to render an ordinary figure, tolerable. Thus equipped, away she sallied for the place of appointment:—but alas! how poignant the mortification of being received in a formal manner, and not with the ardor of an impatient lover. In short, she met with a severe lecture and some chastisement for her impudence, which distressed the texture of her delicate feelings extremely.

LETTER

L E T T E R XV.

M A D A M,

WHILE with pleasure we contemplate the character of a modest and amiable woman, yet it becomes a duty however painful the undertaking, to paint these abandoned *wives* in their true colours, and as a lesson of abhorrence to the rising generation. It is an attempt to guard the public from future deception, and to render honest service to our country.

A virtuous woman is an inestimable treasure, but one given to intrigue is the pest of society, as well as the ruin of individuals.— Several of those unhappy creatures

creatures of the town, and who are a nuisance to the streets, owe their misfortunes in a certain degree to an acquaintance with some of their own sex.—The following anecdote will illustrate the truth of these observations.

While our heroine lodged at Cranston's, an innocent young girl, fifteen years of age, was inveigled to carry errands to many places of infamous resort. In the execution of these commands, it was concerted that a person should watch this devoted victim and triumph over the spoils of innocence. One evening carrying a message to Kildare's, she was trepanned into a room, and by forcible means was——ruined.

Tremble, ye mothers, at the mention
of

of this horrid plot, and for the fate of your own innocent offspring!—Execrate the name of that unfeeling wretch, who could lend assistance for the accomplishment of such savage and inhuman deeds. Barbarous as this transaction certainly was, yet it is not the only one of the sort where— in our heroine has the credit of being concerned. One of the landlady's daughters in Oxford Street, narrowly escaped the snare and a similiar catastrophe.

But from thence our heroine was forced to make a precipitate retreat, and for some years evaded the payment of a considerable demand, and also the expence of the carriages she kept. In the year 1772, when the noted Bolland of infamous memory was executed at Tyburn for forgery, Mr. Ryder, mercer,

Q called

called on Mrs. Dodd, and acquainted her that he had lately arrested her old lodger Mrs. Rudd, and under the name of Gore.

It was observed in a former letter, that to trace the windings of our heroine's career to every place of elopement or intrigue, would prove an endless and insuperable task. Suffice it here to say, that Mrs. Dodd and her neighbours who accommodated our heroine with the carriages, were paid their respective demands by the unfortunate and infatuated Daniel Perreau.

When forced to make a precipitate retreat from Oxford Street, Mrs. Rudd took shelter at Mrs. Husham's in Palace Yard, Westminster, and continued there

for some time—but here we must draw a veil—From thence, we follow her to Prince's Court, near Storey's Gate, where she lived in no great affluence or splendour.

At this period, the advantages of her profession were trifling ; and her finances so scanty, that she was frequently heard to exclaim, If it was not for the goodness of good Lord Granby, who came to see her out of mere affection, she must inevitably have starved. One Lacey, a porter at Storey's Gate, was the person entrusted with errands at this juncture, and who carried many letters for her to an Alehouse at Knightsbridge. But he declined now and then to execute her commands, and insisted on prompt payment.

She

She was once so destitute of money, and all resources, as to give this man her buckles to pawn, and which he did for fifteen Shillings. And we shall see by and bye, that this very man summoned her to the court of conscience for twenty three shillings, and which she paid in a week.

Several persons of suspicious appearance used to call on her at this place; and the landlady not satisfied with the conduct of her lodger, warned her out on various accounts, and even suffered her to go away considerably in her debt. Our heroine was so bare of apparel at this critical period, as to borrow a gown of the servant of the house to carry her to the new quarters, and where we shall soon be obliged to follow her.

If this account should hurt a person of Mrs. Rudd's *sublimity of soul added to a refinement of sentiment*, we refer the curious to Mrs. *Wilson*, the landlady she lodged with at this distressful juncture.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVI.

MADAM,

TO delineate the adventures of so eccentric a character as that of our heroine, it is necessary to relate many disagreeable circumstances, and to visit some uncomfortable abodes.—She was now removed to the Coffee House at Lambeth-marsh, and lodged in an airy apartment—a retreat where none but the lowest and poorest prostitutes had recourse for shelter. Even Lacey the porter was here shocked at the miserable situation of his employer, when forced to repeat his visits for the payment of humble and faithful services.

When

When a married woman forfeits the most solemn engagement and the laws of her protection, it is impossible to guess what may be her catastrophe, or the sum of her distresses—To do justice to the philosophy of Mrs. Rudd, it is readily allowed that she has experienced the extremes of good and ill fortune; has known how to want as well as to abound.

Sometimes she strayed in Pleasure's softest path, and in scenes of voluptuousness—had rich apparel, equipage, jewels, and all the good things of this world in abundance—But now she was destitute of friends and money, and without reputation. In such a dilemma, her ingenuity was employed in laying plans of future eclat and enjoyment—every expedient

pedient was minutely canvassed, and various projects set on foot.

During a long course of intrigue, she had made some useful connexions, especially with a gang of the most notorious pimps. At this juncture, *one* of these came to the dreary mansion, and gave her hopes of better scenes if she would act a spirited and a becoming part. For this purpose he relieved her present necessities, charged her to be dexterous in executing a scheme, and doubted not but she would soon get up in the world,

He then repaired to a young man in the * Temple—assured him that he knew of a fine girl at a boarding school that

was

* Mr. M——k.

was determined to elope—and believed that he could bring her to his chambers. But, says the artful * pimp, a suit of men's cloaths is absolutely necessary; a suit of your's may answer the purpose. Upon this a suit of white and silver was procured, and Miss soon made her appearance at the Temple—where she told an artful tale of getting over the garden wall, and of the many dangers she encountered to effect an elopement.

There is no doubt but that a woman, who could pass for her own sister, even in the arms of an accustomed lover, had arts sufficient to impose on this new gallant; and to persuade how he triumphed over the spoils of virtue. Hence, he spared

R no

* A—d—w White,

no expence to adorn the injured fair in proportion to her youth and personal charms; and prosperity seemed likely to be the portion of her better days. Being totally unacquainted with the irregularities of her past life, he soon expended a large sum, and purchased many fantastical superfluities for this paragon of conscious innocence. She now possessed an unbounded influence in this person's circumstances and affection, and some prospect of an advantage, which she never had before, a certain independency.

Here we must remark, that nature has not been partial to our heroine's form, and time has laid his heavy hand upon her personal accomplishments. But her powers of pleasing in a certain degree, have been well attested by many martyrs;

and

and of *this* the numerous sons of Israel
can bear an ample testimony.

If her charms could lull some modern
Nabobs more powerfully than the opiates
of the East—if her own pale lips have
assumed a temporary colour, which the
new blown rose might envy, yet they
owe this appearance to the powers of art.
Of her teeth, which originally stood in
horizontal projection, appear now in
white or even rows, yet this regularity
is entirely owing to the file of the dentist.
Of gales, soft and inviting as the Arabian
breeze, issue from her breath, even these
have been purchased from the Perfumer's
shop.

Thus nature has not been partial to
this extraordinary syren, who has destroy-
ed

ed the peace of many families, and has proved the ruin of individuals. Her benefactor in the Temple narrowly escaped a fatal catastrophe—but having availed herself of this acquaintance as much as she could, she quitted that meridian with perfect indifference, and travelled westward in search of fresh victims devoted to her service.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVII.

M A D A M,

AIRS of address, gentility and importance are distinguishing features in our heroine's character; and it is allowed to her *credit*, that she is perfectly acquainted with every sphere of life, and never at a loss how to behave in company of the peer or the porter. Notwithstanding the texture of her delicate feelings, yet she has more than once been *touched* by very rough and uncereemonious hands. That hideous monster, called a *sheriff's officer*, has laid his dirty paws on our heroine's tender frame. Many disagreeable instances of this nature have occur'd to her ladyship.

It

It happened on a time, and what we forgot to mention in its proper place, that our heroine lodged at a certain house and on a presumption of being a real lady of quality. The landlady never suspected her true character for a time, and till a considerable sum for board and lodging was due—when she made bold to ask her ladyship for the whole or part of the debt. Our heroine was too well versed in the ways of the world to be disconcerted at so unseasonable a demand; but with great composure, airs of consequence, and easy elegance, replied, that she was somewhat surprized at the liberty of asking for such a trifle.

Upon this, she summoned her footman, ordered him to hasten to my Lord, and bring the money due to the landlady,
 insist.

insisting withal that his lordship would immediately send his chariot, being determined not to sleep another night in the house of a landlady of such indelicate manners and narrow principles.

The footman no doubt, understood her ladyship's meaning, and therefore knew how to conduct himself on the business, bowed obedience and retired. The landlady, during this plausible scene, remained in a state of suspense—fearful she had offended her ladyship if she was a *real* lady, and who could not fail of being a desirable lodger on punctual payment, and which then promised to be the case—the good woman made many apologies, pleaded poverty, and hoped her ladyship would not be affronted at the liberty occasioned by her own necessitous circumstances.

The

The footman being now returned, delivered the following card to his mistress, and which her ladyship with great condescension desired the landlady to peruse. “My dear Lady, I must beg ten thousand pardons for not waiting on your ladyship before, but as I have been detained longer in the country than expected, hope you will excuse it. Am this moment going to court, and if I can get away in any time, will call at the banker’s, and bring with me treble your small request. If I do not come this evening, I must beg leave to pay my respects to you in the morning.”

This well concerted scheme succeeded. The landlady was convinced of her own rudeness, as well as of her lodger’s real consequence and importance—fully satisfied

fed that ſhe ſhould receive a conſiderable
 ſum the next morning, the landlady re-
 tired to reſt in good humour. But the
 next day brought neither Lord nor mo-
 ney; and this diſappointment operated
 with redoubled force, awakened the land-
 lady's ſuſpicions more than ever, and
 rendered her truly uneaſy. And what
 alarmed her moſt, was a diſcovery, that
 the lady and footman had been earneſtly
 employed great part of the day in pack-
 ing up their own things, and probably
 more than they well could call their
 own. Having communicated her ſuſ-
 picions to a neighbour, he prudently
 adviſed her to have an officer in rea-
 dineſs in the houſe for fear of ſome
 iniquitous ſcheme or plan of deception.
 The landlady purſued the advice, and
 planted an officer ready for execution
 if matters ſhould turn out as there was

S

much

much room to suspect. About midnight, and on a presumption that the family was fast asleep, the footman was dispatched for a chair; and when her ladyship descended, a person in waiting ordered the chairmen to set down their fare, and seized upon her ladyship for further security.

Her ladyship was then ushered to a place by no means calculated for the reception of a person of delicate feelings; nor suitable for the accommodation of a lady endowed with a sublimity of soul added to a refinement of sentiment. However, after a little confinement she found means to be set at liberty: but this was not the only time that our heroine has been obliged to be complaisant to ill-looking myrmidons, and to put up with very disagreeable quarters.

LETTER

L E T T E R XVIII.

M A D A M,

THE pimp who introduced our heroine to the Temple is a most extraordinary character, and perhaps has a more extensive acquaintance with ladies of easy virtue than any other person in the kingdom. This merchant * had considerable business in his walk, and never deserted his female customers in any situation, after he had once experienced their generosity and affable demeanour. Our heroine had the dexterity to recommend herself to this person's notice and favour, soon after she came upon the town; and he assumes the merit of rendering

* A—d—w W—

dering essential services, when Mrs. Rudd was but little known in the fashionable world, or at places of genteel resort.

This trusty friend was firmly attached to our heroine's interest, whenever deserted by an inconstant lover, or at a loss, for some fresh cull; and it is allowed that there is no dirty job, but what this detestable villian will undertake, in order to promote his own interest and diabolical purposes. Considering the great number of women, married as well as single, whom this fellow has seduced, it is astonishing how he has so long escaped that punishment which his infamous profession so justly merits.

It was this artful pimp, this caterer for the *voluptuous* and *libertines* of the

age, that brought our heroine to several doating admirers ; particularly to a very respectable gentleman at the West end of the town, who for a while indulged her in every vanity, and permitted her to have plenty of rich cloaths and jewels in his name and on his credit. No doubt but an artful woman improved so glorious on opportunity, and made a proper use of such an enamoured dotard. It seems that she was peculiarly dexterous in making herself agreeable to enfeebled lovers ; knew how to flatter, fondle and caress, and to exert all the craft of woman. Thus established in a splendid sphere, and surrounded with affluence, she was very bountiful to that benefactor who recommended her to so munificent a protector,

The

The pimp at this gay period, experienced great civilities and marks of uncommon generosity; and the good natur'd lady would now and then listen to a private assignation, and condescend to honour some of his favourite customers with a visit. In this lustre and under these circumstances she lived for some time, till the detection of an amorous interview between our heroine and a certain gallant broke off the connexion. This proved a fatal discovery, an alarming stroke to so bountiful a lady—she had now a gloomy prospect, by perceiving all her interest lost in so good a quarter. Her young lover had probably a greater flow of spirits, but he was destitute of those pecuniary considerations so necessary to keep a woman above indigence and distress; and being reduced to

a scanty pittance our heroine was forced to have recourse once more to her own ingenuity and the chapter of accidents.

However, the faithful pimp would not desert so generous a lady, or leave her in the day of adversity : but having planned a fresh scheme, he placed her for a time in a retired situation. Notwithstanding the great pains taken by the pimp, and the retirement of the place, yet it proved an inconvenient spot ; for the real character of the lady being soon discovered, she was obliged to decamp rather abruptly, and old *Andrew* narrowly escaped with whole bones.

The lady's behaviour, and the fraud practised on the late cull at the temple, had roused the resentment of some lively youths,

youths, who were determined in their way to have ample satisfaction on such impudent impostors. Accordingly, they traversed the hundreds of Drury and all the purlieus of Covent garden in search of *Andrew* and his boarding-school girl; but could by no means meet with the objects of their enquiry. At length they stumbled on the right scent, and with full resolution of being amply rewarded for so much trouble. The pimp and his charge were apprized of the storm, and made a precipitate retreat through a window; else the one would have *danced* in the air, and the other have an opportunity of *swimming* for life.

LETTER

L E T T E R XIX.

M A D A M,

OLD *Andrew* and our heroine were put to their shifts, had not the courage to appear by day, and were forced to concert all their measures by night. Intervals of darkness corresponded in some degree with the office of the *one*, as well as with the duty of the *other*; and having no settled place of abode, our heroine was under a necessity of adopting precarious and temporary lodgings. The pimp from long services and experience had a kind of *right* to call on different customers, and even to disturb their rest and repose at unseasonable hours. It was his peculiar study to please persons

T sons

sons of every complexion; to be serviceable to mechanics, merchants, or peers—to Jews as well as to Gentiles, and to render his province as extensively useful as possible.—He was no stranger in his vocation to the amorous sons of Israel—who sometimes expend in *one* day all the profits of the preceding week, with some artful female: and we have the best authority to affirm, that *Jews* have lavished immense sums of money, as well as the richest jewels on our heroine, and in consideration of valuable favours, for which no bill in equity could be filed. It is a mistaken notion, that peers and members of parliament are the only persons who deal in female charms, or purchase innocence in an illicit manner. The wealthy citizen has his country seat for particular purposes, and the whole

whole body of inferior merchants will imitate the conduct of those who have affluent fortunes to support their extravagance. An attachment to the charms of the fair sex, is by no means confined to those who bear the name of Christians—the Mussulmen and all the disciples of Mahomet, are confessedly as fond of women as any people in Europe. And it is universally acknowledged, that the sons of Israel abound in riches, which greatly contribute to the gratification of unlawful pleasures, and brutal appetites. A child of Israel may not break the sabbath, be he ever so poor; yet no sooner does the sun set on Saturday evening, but his conscience will permit him to break open an house in the city, and even commit murder in the environs of this metropolis.—If then a poor Israelite
 who

who cries old clothes through the Streets of London, will commit felony, and even murder on *that* day, which the laws of this country have appropriated to the most solemn purposes—why may not the richer sort with equal propriety adjourn to the polite end of the town, to spend, with *delicate* females, part of the money which by illicit practices they had procured the preceding week in the alley?

It is certain that our heroine became acquainted at this distressful period with an amorous * Jew, and who will bear an interesting part in the ensuing volume. It was the assiduity and attention of old *Andrew* the pimp that planned this connexion,

nection, and recommended our heroine
 to the most credulous lover that ever de-
 scended from the race of Abraham.
 This person, if report may be credited,
 is of such an amorous disposition, that
 every woman was equally pleasing to
 him, provided he had never seen her be-
 fore. Variety is his darling passion;
 and it will appear in the prosecution of
 this narrative, that our heroine has passed
 with him for four different women. No
 sooner was he introduced to Mrs. Rudd,
 than he became extremely enamoured of
 her charms, and he laid money at her
 feet like the treasures of Ophir of old.
 He never thought any expence too great,
 so as he could gratify his sensual appetites
 and animal passion. Had our heroine
 been endowed with common prudence,
 she might have made a good use of so
 plentiful

plentiful an harvest, and improved the golden opportunity to some purpose. But her prodigalities and dissipation were boundless. A noted house in Leicester Fields for promiscuous reception, gave the first zest to their amours, and laid the foundation of that attachment which effectually fleeced this amorous Israelite; and in the long-run rendered him an object of poverty and contempt.

The indulgence of unlawful pleasures or criminal pursuits, is generally attended with the most fatal and ruinous consequences. Daily experience illustrates the truth of this assertion. The turbulence of the passions will admit of some apology for the vivacity and irregularities of youth; but to see an old dotard with one leg in the grave, lavish of money as well

as prodigal of endearments on a common prostitute, is truly shameful and ridiculous!—as to our heroine, she has no notion of any life but this. A sense of religion and a future state, have never entered into her creed; she therefore leads a mere animal life, and like the beasts that perish, will insensibly sink into obscurity.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

[143]

...of a common
...and ...
...to ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...



END OF THE FIRST VOLUME